Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 COME-00 XMB-04 /022 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0426

UNCLAS SAN JOSE 2338

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, BEXP, CS

SUBJECT: CONTRACT AWARDED FOR CONSTRUCTION CEMENT PLANT

REF: SAN JOSE A-146 JULY 27, 1973

- 1. A MAJOR CEMENT PROJECT, CEMENTO DEL PACIFICO, WHICH FAILED TO GAIN GOCR APPROVAL EARLY LAST YEAR HAS NOW BEEN APPROVED AND THE CONTRACT AWARDED TO A U.S. FIRM. AN OFFICIAL OF CORPORACION COSTARRICENSE DE DESARROLLO, S.A., (CODESA) INFORMED EMBASSY OFFICIAL UNOFFICIALLY THAT A CONTRACT HAS BEEN AWARDED TO ALLIS CHALMERS FOR THE "TURNKEY" CONSTRUCTION OF A 1.750 MT DAILY CAPACITY CEMENT PLANT IN GUANACASTE.
- 2. CONSTRUCTION OF THE PLANT IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN WITHIN 60 DAYS AND IS TO BE COMPLETED EARLY IN 1978. THE COST OF THE PROJECT IS EXPECTED TO APPROXIMATE \$60 MILLION AND IS TO BE FINANCED IN ACCORDANCE WITH A PLAN DEVELOPED BY ALLIS CHALMERS. THIS FINANCIAL PLAN PROVIDES FOR BORROWING \$42 MILLION WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF BANK OF AMERICA AND EXIMBANK.
- 3. THE PROJECT IN 1973 WAS EXPECTED TO COST \$45 MILLION AND PRODUCE 1.2 MT OF CEMENT ANNUALLY. TODAY'S COST ESTIMATES, AFTER CAREFUL STUDY, ARE 33 PERCENT HIGHER AND THE PRODUCTION CAPACITY IS 63.6 PERCENT LOWER.
- 4. THE FEASIBILITY STUDY CONDUCTED BY KAISER UNCLASSIFIED

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ENGINEERS RECOMMENDED A PLANT WITH A DAILY PRODUCTION

CAPACITY OF 1,000 MT AND ALLIS CHALMERS RECOMMENDED A DAILY PRODUCTION CAPACITY OF 1,200 MT. CODESA'S DECISION TO INCREASE THIS CAPACITY TO 1,750 MT DAILY WAS PROMPTED BY A DECISION TO USE CONCRETE INSTEAD OF ASPHALT TO SURFACE THE NEW ROADS PLANNED IN COSTA RICA. LANE

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